REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were originally presented for examination. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-16, 18 and 19 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-16 are rejected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 12-15 are rejected as lacking enablement. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The application, in paragraph 22, states: "The interconnects of this invention utilizes plates which can actually be made of three layers with one separator plate or layer in the middle, one plate with fingers on the fuel side, and one plate with fingers on the air side." A variety of techniques are known and within the skill of the art to make a layered plate. Claim 4 has been canceled. Claims 2, 5-8 and 12-15 depend from claim 1. Therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 12-15 are rejected as vague and indefinite. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a three layer plate, wherein each layer of said three layer plate comprises a different material. Claim 4 has been canceled. Claims 2, 5-8 and 12-15 depend from claim 1. Therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 4 is rejected as being indefinite. Claim 4 has been canceled. Therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 9, 10, 13 and 16 are rejected as being anticipated by Katz et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 16 have been amended to recite a three layer plate, wherein each layer of said three layer plate comprises a different material. Katz failes to disclose a three layer plate of different materials in conjunction with a plurality of spaced members. Claims 10 and 13 depend from claim 9. Therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 12 is rejected as being unpatentable over Katz et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 depends from claim 9 which should be allowable over the reference as discussed above. Therefore the rejection should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18 and 19 are indicated to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Conclusions

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance based on claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12-16, 18 and 19 in view of the amendments thereto and the foregoing comments.

If any impediments remain to prompt allowance of the case, please contact the undersigned at 808-270-1011.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Wooldridge

Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 38,725

Dated: June 2, 2004